The South 40

What's a fair rental price for cropland?

By JAMES A. SMITH
Extension Agent

Determing a fair rental price for a farm, cropland or pasture is difficult. The landowner wants to maximize returns and the leasee wants to minimize the charge. Who will maintain fences, who will apply the lime and fertilizer, amount and frequency, who will maintain pastures and hayland, who will trim brush from field edges, who maintains farm bridges and what will be done to minimize soil erosion. These are some of the concerns both parties need to recognize and come to an understanding. If the rent is excessive, obviously the landowner accepts these responsibilities. While, if the rate is low, can the renter be trusted to fulfill his responsibilities.

For a number of years, in Appomattox County, pasture has tented for $10 to $12 per acre and cropland for $15 to $25 per acre. If the land is worth $900 an acre and with passbook intrest rates at .0525 percent an interest return would be $31.50 per acre.

The Virginia Crop Reporting Service recently released rental rates for Virginia and various states in the country. When whole farms were rented in Virginia, the rate was $33.80 per acre. This compares with $40.60 in North Carolina, $49.70 Kentucky and $40.50 in Tennessee.

Cropland averaged $39.00 per acre in Virginia for 1983 and compared with $45.30 in North Carolina, $62.50 Kentucky and $47.90 Tennessee.

Pasture rental averaged $18.20 per acre in 1983 for Virginia and compared with $20.20 North Carolina, $27.60 Kentucky and $23.50 Tennessee.

The data does not indicate who takes the responsibility for some of the concerns that I listed earlier.

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The latest report shows Appomattox County with 1800 milk cows and heifers and 16,700 beef cows and calves.

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Some growers have asked whether soybeans should be harvested as grain or as hay. The two primary factors are the expected yield and the expected price of beans. You would need to subtract the direct difference in harvest costs, which may run $6-$8 per acre.

Yield determinaiton of beans is difficult since they do have a tremendous potential for recovery from stress, but time is running out. You need at least 45 days from bloom to maturity.

A guideline would be --

• Harvest for hay if:

1. Beans have not reached sufficient height (8-10") for economical combining 45 days before the average frost date (October 20 for this area).

2. Plants have not bloomed 45 days before average frost date.

3. Expected grain yield will not pay harvest cost.

For those marginal fields, we have a table that will assist in making the evaluation. Come by and pick one up if there's a need.

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There will be a firewood auction October 1, 1:00 p.m. at the Buckingham - Appomattox State Forest Forestry Center.

19.3 acres of cutover hardwoods are divided into 12 blocks. Each block will be auctioned separately. Cutting rights extend from Oct. 1 to June 1, 1984. Minimum acceptable bid is $10 per cord. Call 804-492-4121 for further information.

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Stumpage prices are up for forest products according to Timber Mart South. Average prices in Virginia by region are available in this office for your review.

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Needing to stock up on hay? We have a listing of suppliers that we would be glad to share with you.

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This is National Farm Safety Week--a time to focus on the theme "Safeguard the Future." This is an effort to demonstrate the need to protect and train children of the hazards associated with farming.

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When building a home orient the house on an E-W axis rather than a N-S axis. It will be cooler --reason wall heat gain.

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A study at Kansas State University concluded that ceiling fans with an air velocity of 90 feet per minute or more do make a person feel more comfortable. A separate study estimates energy savings of 5-10% in summer, but little, if any, saving in winter.

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Come winter many dairymen will again experience slippery lots and alleys. Now is a good time to rent a groover and correct the problem.

ASCS today

By TOM CONRAD

Flue Tobacco Marketing News - Stronger grade prices were responsible for a continued increase in the general average for Old and Middle Belt Flue-Cured tobacco during the seventh week of sales. According to the Federal-State Market News Service, overall quality was not as good as the previous week, but less tobacco placed under loan. Volume was the heaviest of any week so far this season. Based on the September crop estimate, about 39 percent of the 1983 Type II crop has been sold. Producers' sales opportunity in the belt next week (Sept. 19-23) is 25,576,000 pounds (include 4 markets or 3,714,000 pounds in Marketing Area C).

Gross sales by states follow:

States	Week Ending September 16, 1983 Pounds	Average	Season Through September 16, 1983 Pounds	Average
Virginia	4,000,165	$128.45	20,257,850	$107.41
North Carolina	18,990,614	$134.21	76,077,224	$108.15
Total	22,990,779	$133.40	96,335,074	$108.05

The weekly average of $133.40 was a gain of $4.37. During the same period (25 sales days last season, 131,484,000 pounds has returned $170.46 per hundred. Weekly resales of 2,052,441 pounds raised the season figure to 8,790,237 pounds. So far this season, a total of 854,596 pounds has been reported sold non-auction, broken down as follows: Florida 14,243; Georgia 46,974; South Carolina 37,458; and North Carolina 755,921 pounds.

Grade prices continued to show improvement. Gains of $2 to $5 per hundred were recorded in the majority of cases this week. The practical top held at $205 with selected sheets as high as $211. The bulk of sales, however, was within a range of $161 to $195 per hundred.

Quality on floors is now showing the effect of the hot, dry growing season. Upper stalk volume increased (44 percent B grades), but most of this is fair and low quality tobacco, grading in unripe or immature categories. Other group percentages were: cutters 18; lugs 27; primings 7; and nondescript 4 percent. Only 15 percent of weekly sales graded good or better, with 60 percent fair and 20 percent low quality. Unripe or immature sales accounted for aobut half of all auctions this week.

The Stabilization Corporation received 11.4 percent of weekly gross sales. For the season, 16.3 percent has been placed under loan compared to 22.2 percent at this point last season.

The crop estimate for Type 11 tobacco declined 14.2 million pounds in figures released by the USDA Crop Reporting Board in September. Production is now set at 246.6 million pounds. Total flue-cured production was off 24,970,000 pounds, and is now expected to be 799,730,000 pounds.

Antique event slated

October is rapidly approaching and with it comes the traditional Historic Appomattox Railroad Festival, planned this year for Oct. 8 and 9. This is the eleventh year for the festival and each succeeding year has reached new heights for exciting additions. 1983 will be no exception. The festival has expanded to include several new attractions, including an Antique Show and Sale.

In past years, dealers of Arts and Crafts have exhibited antiques to a limited extent. This year, the festival board decided that an antique show and sale could be an intergral and successful addition to the festival. Board members solicited and were successful in obtaining a diverse and authentic collection of furniture, glassware, collectables, post cards of the early railroad era, and other items for the first year's event. In addition, the traditional arts and craft displays will be continued.

The first Antique Show and Sale will be held on Main Street with the other attractions, instead of at the Appomattox Middle School as originally planned. It will be located in the building previously occupied by Central Fidelity Bank and directly across from the railroad depot. Dealers exhibiting antiques will be from Appomattox, Charlotte, Buckingham and Campbell Counties and from the Lynchburg and Roanoke areas. Most of the displays will contain antiques from the immediate surrounding areas.

Many of the items for sale have been restored and refinished by these dealers themselves. Having established this expertise, the dealers possess a wealth of information relative to the "bows" in refinishing and the technique for establishing the period of an antique.

PICTURED ABOVE IS the 1982-83 Raider Marching Band comprised of 69 members. Flute players include Anthony Banks, Kathy Bryan, Teresa Burger, Kim Fuller, Martha Haley, Rani Johnson, Cathy Johnson, Lisa Martin, Kim McChney, Debbie Riley, Cathy Robertson, and Amanda Walton; Clarinet players are Tina Campbell, Wanda Daniels, Kathy Jones, Leigh Ann Taylor, Tracey Trent, and Sheral Wesley; Trumpet players include Sherl Anderson, Greg Ayers, Mike Bohanan, Brenda Franklin, Duane Hamlet, Dawn Hancock, Timmy Lawson, Amy Mann, Warren Moore, Robbie Phillips, and Angie Whitmer; Kevin Armentrout plays F Horn; Alto Saxophone players are Jeff Agee, William Card, Anthony Jones, Jason Justis, Karen Trent, and Terri Trent; Richard Baxter and Jimmy Fuldess play Tenor Saxophone; Trombone players include John Fuldess, Tony Martin, and Brian Mitchell; Jeff Jaggers plays Baritone Saxophone; Electric Bass Guitar Player is James Bohanan with David O'Brien as assistant; Snare Drum players are Pierre Christian; Dan Cain and Kristie Tucker; Nancy Card plays Cymbals; Jan Armentrout plays Bells; Base Drum player is Diane Jones; and Wesley Baldwin plays Tri-Tone. Vivian Seay is Drum Major. Flag Corp Girls are Frances Caldwell, Arlene Cobbs, Christian Cardell, Cristi Craft, Carolyn Knight, Lynn Martin, Patricia Scott, Annette Turner, Sandy Walton, and Tonia Watson. Rifle Corp Girls are Cindy Martin, Fontella Robinson, Jessica Stanley, Teresa Taylor, Renee Wesley, and Laura Woody. Majorette is Jane Jenkins. Band officers are President, Vivian Seay; Vice-President, Tracey Trent; Secretary, Brenda Franklin; reporter, Tina Campbell; SCA representative, Richard Baxter; Flag Captain is Sandy Walton, Rifle Captain is Jessica Stanley and Majorette is Jane Jenkins. Band Director is Frank Coffey; Flag and Rifle Coor. is Sue Wright, and Drum Major is Vivian Seay.

ACHS Marching Band plans festival

The Appomattox County High School Raider Marching Band will sponsor a Band Festival at Triangle Plaza on Saturday, Sept. 24 in observance of Band Appreciation Week.

Band members will be at the Plaza between 5 and 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday of this week to display different musical instruments, flags and rifles. Each day will feature a different group. The band students will be answering questions concerning the band, handing out schedules of upcoming events, as well as displaying pictures of practice sessions, half-time shows, and/or former band students.

On Saturday between the hours of 2 and 4 a.m., the band will be in the parking lot of Farmers National Bank at the Plaza. Mini-concerts will be presented at 2:30 and 3:30 featuring "Dixie Jubilee" and other songs.

Band students will once again be available to answer questions and will have all musical instruments as well as flags, rifles, the band banner, and band uniforms on display. Drinks will be served.

"Appomattox Raider" painter caps will be on sale for $2.00, and orders will be taken for Gourmet Spices which are $2.00 per bottle or $8.00 for a boxed set of four.

Happiness is 4-H

By FRANK SWEET
Extension Agent

Congratulations to all 4-H'ers who entered exhibits in the Five County Fair last week. Participating is the key to success in 4-H regardless of how you may have placed. Each 4-H'er should keep a record of the various items they exhibited in the Fair. The information may be kept in project record books or in other locations. An accurate record of what the 4-H'er has exhibited each year is most helpful when it comes time to complete 4-H achievement records.

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We just received some bad news about the 4-H Pine Seedling program for this year. Due to heavy losses in the Virginia Division of Forestry nurseries, we will not be able to provide seedlings for 4-H'ers next spring. We hope that we will again be able to offer this program in the spring of 1985.

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The annual 4-H Officers Training Meeting will be Sunday afternoon, Sept. 27, at 3:30 p.m. in the auditorium of Appomattox Elementary School. This is a most important training meeting for each of the newly elected officers to attend. New 4-H officers will learn what their duties will be during the year and will have the opportunity to practice their duties.

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The Virginia Hunter Safety Course will be taught on the evenings of Oct. 25, 26, 27, at the District Extension Office Meeting Room in Appomattox. This course will be offered to 4-H'ers 11 years old and older and their parents. The course includes safe handling of firearms, hunter responsibility, understanding different types of weapons and respect for game laws. 4-H'ers will receive sign-up sheets at their October meetings. Advanced sign-up may be made by calling the Appomattox Extension Office at 352-8244.

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Plans are underway for the Lynchburg Area Junior Livestock Show and Sale, which will be held next May. 4-H and FFA members have the opportunity to show beet steers, beef heifers and market lambs in the show. Young people planning to show steers should begin planning now for selecting and feeding. All steers will need to be designated and on feed by mid-November.

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A reminder to all 4-H'ers that project records from last year are due by October 15. These can be turned in at regular meetings or turned in at the Extension Office.

Letter: People thanked

Dear Editor:

The St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Wheels for Life Bike-A-Thon is over for this year and, looking back, we want to sincerely thank the citizens of Appomattox for their generous support.

We are extremely proud of the 11 riders, the hard working volunteers whose efforts made this a success, and the citizens of Appomattox. Thanks to them we raised a grand total of $329.75

Because of the diseases that St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's battling can strike any child, any where, this money will be helping to save childrens lives all over the world.

Your help was an important part of this event and you performed a very worthwhile service acquainting the citizens of Appomattox with the work being done by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. For that we are grateful.

It is a wonderful feeling to know that the people of our community are concerned and caring individuals and on behalf of the children of St. Jude's, I want to thank each and every one who helped.

Sincerely
Nancy May

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Band schedule

The Appomattox County High School Raider Marching Band would like to thank all the parents, students, and friends who have supported the band in various ways and ask for your continued support in upcoming events listed as follows:

Sept. 23	Pep Band at Football Game
Sept. 30	Home Football Game*
Oct. 7	Pep Band at Football game
Oct. 8	Railroad Day Parade*
Oct. 14	Homecoming Parade*
Oct. 14	Home Football Game*
Oct. 21	Pep Band at Football Game
Oct. 28	Home Football Game*
Nov. 4	Pep Band at Football Game
Nov.	Band Competition at Univ. of Richmond*
Dec.	Christmas Parade at S. Boston*
Dec.	Christmas Parade at Farmville*
Dec.	All-Regionals Audition
Dec.	Christmas Concerts (Open to public)
Jan.	Jazz Band Festival
Feb.	All-Regional Band
March	Band Festival
May	Spring Concert (open to public)
May	Buckingham Co. Day Parade*
June	Play for Graduation Exer.
June	King's Dominion*

*Events in which both playing band members and flags and rifles participate.

Band Director: Frank Coffey
Flag & Rifle Coordinator: Sue Wright

Leader profiles

Mr. Frank Coffey, band director at Appomattox County High School, is a graduate of Concord High School. He attended Virginia Commonwealth University where he received both his Bachelors and Masters Degrees.

While serving in the United States Navy, Mr. Coffey taught at the Armed Forces School of Music in Norfolk. Then in 1968, Mr. Coffey began teaching in Appomattox and has been here ever since.

He is married to the former Anne Blackwell of Richmond, and they have two children, Elizabeth who is a student at VCU and David who is a student at VPI.

Local bikers raise more than $300

A total of $329.75 was raised for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital this Saturday, as 11 local bikers pedaled 87 miles in the Appomattox "Wheels For Life" bike-a-thon for Terry.

"The ride was a success and showed that Appomattox understood the importance of the research being done at St. Jude Hospital," Bike-a-Thon chairman Nancy May said in announcing the ride's results. "Everyone who participated did a wonderful job."

"The $329.75 raised from the ride will help continue the research into childhood cancer and other catastrophic diseases," Nancy May said. "Children here and everywhere will be helped by this successful Bike-a-thon and the progress being made at St. Jude Hospital."

Riders in this year's Bike-a-thon wore bracelets that said they were riding for Terry. Terry is a leukemia patient who symbolizes all the children at St. Jude. She is now 8 years old and has been in remission for almost three years. This brave little girl is now winning the battle against cancer.

Nancy May urged all sponsors and riders to turn in their donations by Tuesday, Sept. 27 to her at American Federal Savings and Loan, at Triangle Plaza, Appomattox.

The Bike-a-thon was sponsored locally by the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club.

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•PINESOL CLEANER ... 15 oz. BOT. 99¢
•UNDERWOOD Deviled HAM ... 2¼ oz. CANS 2/89¢
•REALEMON LEMON JUICE ... QT. JAR $1.19
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